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Message Text

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21
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01

AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 /119 W
---------- 070686
R 011824Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3945
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GATT, ETRD
SUBJ: CANADIAN TEXTILE RESTRAINTS

REF: GENEVA 9544

1. GOVERNMENT OF CANADA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPOSITION OF
RESTRAINTS ON IMPORTS OF APPAREL UNDER ARTICLE XIX OF
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GATT REPORTED REFTEL HAS PROVOKED STRONG REACTION FROM

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EXPORTING COUNTRIES AT GATT TEXTILE COMMITTEE MEETING. WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS ULTIMATE IMPACT OF CANADIAN ACTION ON PROSPECT FOR EARLY RENEWAL OF THE MFA (ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES), U.S. DELEGATION IS CONCERNED THAT RESTRICTIVE ACTION OF THIS SCOPE AT THIS TIME MAY SIGNIFICANTLY SET BACK POSSIBILITY OF EARLY RENEWAL. U.S. HAS ADVISED PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES OF ITS CONCERN AT CANADIAN ACTION, INCLUDING ITS IMPACT ON U.S. TRADE INTERESTS.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT CONCERNING CANADIAN QUOTA ON APPAREL MADE BY USDEL SMITH DURING TEXTILES COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 30: QUOTE. I WOULD SIMPLY LIKE TO MAKE A VERY BRIEF COMMENT ON THE PARTICULAR MATTER RAISED THIS AFTERNOON BY THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATE FROM HONG KONG.

THE UNITED STATES HAS, LIKE OTHER DELEGATIONS, JUST LEARNED OF THE DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO IMPOSE RESTRAINTS ON ITS IMPORTS OF APPAREL UNDER ARTICLE XIX OF THE GATT. THE U.S. FULLY AND COMPLETELY SHARES THE CONCERN OF OTHER DELEGATIONS AT THE ACTION THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA HAS FELT ITSELF COMPELLED TO TAKE.

ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT AS YET HAVE FULL DETAILS ABOUT THIS ACTION, WE BELIEVE U.S. TRADE INTERESTS TOO MAY BE AFFECTED IN A MAJOR WAY. WE WILL, OF COURSE, VIGOROUSLY PURSUE THIS ISSUE FURTHER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

OF GREATER CONCERN TO US IS THE POSSIBLE IMPACT OF THE CANADIAN ACTION ON RELATIONS AMONG TEXTILE TRADING COUNTRIES AND ON THE ENVIRONMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN TEXTILE POLICY, MR. CHAIRMAN I MUST ALSO OBSERVE THAT THE TIMING COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS "EXQUISITE."

WHATEVER LEGAL JUSTIFICATION THERE MAY BE FOR THE CANADIAN ACTION AND HOWEVER SEVERE THE SITUATION CITED AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OCCASION FOR IT, THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CANNOT HELP BUT TO FAN THE FLAMES OF PROTECTIONISM WORLDWIDE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MFA IS TO CONTAIN THOSE FLAMES LEST THEY CONSUME US ALL. I CAN ONLY HOPE THIS CANADIAN ACTION TODAY DOES NOT DEFLECT US FROM THIS ESSENTIAL GOAL AND THAT THE GOC WILL TAKE EARLY ACTION TO RESPOND TO THE CONCERNS ALREADY EXPRESSED BY DELEGATIONS REPRESENTED HERE. UNQUOTE.

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END UNCLASSIFIED.CATTO

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